

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, November 11, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, November 11, 1843.

My Dear General. Your two last grateful letters of the 31 ult. and Novr. 2nd have been received. It delights me to hear that there is an improvement in your health. It proves that there is stamina left to recover upon and I trust it will maintain you for years to come against the weakening expeoration to which you are subject. You say you hope to live to see me elected printer. I can assure you if that was to be the date of your life, I have not an enemy in the world who would wish to put off my election so long. I trust you will live not only to be gratified in this kind wish for me, but to see your friend restored to the presidency, to carry out your illustrious beginning and to see his administration close in glory. But let me entreat you General, not expose yourself in a november Journey to Nashville to save me. If the weather be even good, I am afraid for you to risk the fatigue. Although I am sensible that your interposition personally would have greater effect, yet if you were to drop a line to some of your delegation while at Nashville opening your feelings to them it would be sufficient. I think a letter addressed to Mr. Wilkins of Pittsburg, who is greatly your friend and mine, or to some other prominent man of the House (may be Mr. C. J. Ingersoll would be the best as he will not in all likely hood be a candidate for Speaker)—which letter might [be] so written, as to be shown by him to others—would have a good effect.

I was surprized at Penn's unprovoked and systematic attack on me which has lasted almost a year without reply on my part. Your letter unravels it. I see by his paper

Library of Congress

that he is coming on. The only ground of hatred he has to me is that I became his appearance Bail for $1000 paid 0265 241 the money for him and never got a farthing in return or pressed him for it. He will before long [be] joined by another under still greater obligations to me. But I will not allow my sense of this ingratitude to drive me from my propriety and a cautious respect of all that is due to you and my party in contending against both these rivals. The administration will support them with all its might. The Clay men will encourage it, in the hope that in the strife, feelings may be engendered that will turn to their advantage, but beaten or successful, against them I will direct whatever force is left me, not against any of our own party who may contribute to my defeat. Mr. Wright and all of Mr. Van Buren's intimate friends I think will do what they properly can to support me. I have not however had any communication with any of them on the subject.

I am mortified, dear General, that you suffered the mortgages to give trouble. It was never of any importance that they were given or recorded or that we had them. And let me entreat you not to give yourself any inconvenience about providing for the notes. The arrangement was proposed by me to prevent any vexation to you growing out of Andrews business. You must therefore do in the matter what adapts itself best to your comfort and ease and interests.

Your remarks about our good friend Linn, renewed my grief for his loss. His was the noblest heart in the Senate. When he told Archer that he would resent any insult to you, as one offered to himself, he as effectually closed the mouths of your traducers in that body, as if you had yourself entered and taken a seat in the body. I was present when he did this, and the solemn composed, but determined manner in which he gave the notice, made an impression which was visible on every face in the Senate. The Whig chivalry were compelled by their fears to digest it in silence. You never had a fonder friend or admirer, and he was besides as honest a patriot as ever lived and as true a philanthropist. He showed his humanity as well as his courage in taking the cholera patients, thrown on the

Library of Congress

Bank of the river by the back landing at St. Genevieve, to his House. My family and myself mourn him as a near relative lost.

You make my wife quite proud in saying you wear her presents and that you find comfort in it. You are the only father to her she has ever known, and she has concentrated on you all the filial feelings of a very affectionate heart. She and my daughter send their love to you and Mrs. Jackson. My son James has just left for another voyage round the world. 1

1 James Blair entered the navy as a midshipman in 1836, and resigned as a lieutenant in 1851.

yo. af. friend